

# Terrorism Training

for Law Enforcement



## Domestic Terrorist/ Extremist Groups

Activities and Trends



## Domestic Terrorist/Extremist Groups Topics

- Introduction
- Left-wing groups
- Right-wing groups
- Special-interest/single-issue groups
- Other terrorism issues

## What Is Domestic Terrorism?

- Extreme force and violence perpetrated by residents of a country, within that country, for the purpose of coercing its government and population into modifying its behavior

## Forms of Domestic Terrorism

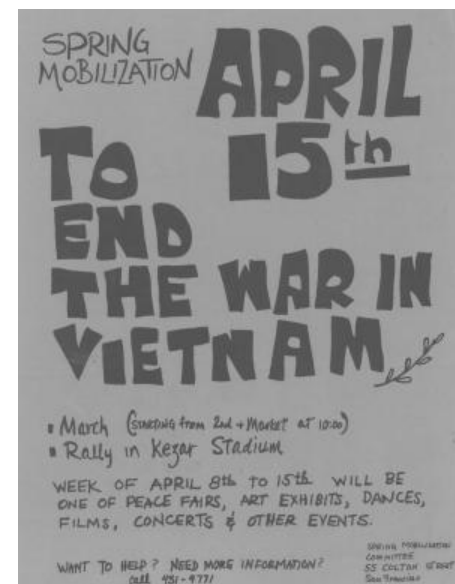
- Left-wing terrorism
- Right-wing terrorism
- Special-interest/single-issue terrorism

## Domestic—Left-Wing Philosophy

- Pro-socialist
- Anticapitalist
- Seeks equality—no social classes
- Weak or no central government
- Common ownership of means of production

## Left-Wing Groups and Activities

- Anti-Vietnam War
  - Students for a Democratic Society (SDS)/Weathermen/Weather Underground Organization (WUO)
  - New Year's Gang
- Black activist
  - Black Panther Party
  - Black Liberation Army (BLA)



## Left-Wing Groups and Activities (continued)

- Leftist-oriented groups of the 1970s-1980s
- Anarchists
- Puerto Rican separatists
  - Armed Forces for Puerto Rican National Liberation
  - Los Macheteros



## Domestic—Right-Wing Philosophy

- Opposite of left-wing philosophy, but not necessarily along a straight line
  - Some groups oppose the U.S. government
  - Some believe government has been taken over
  - Some believe they are the government



Elaine Thompson / AP



## Domestic—Right-Wing Philosophy

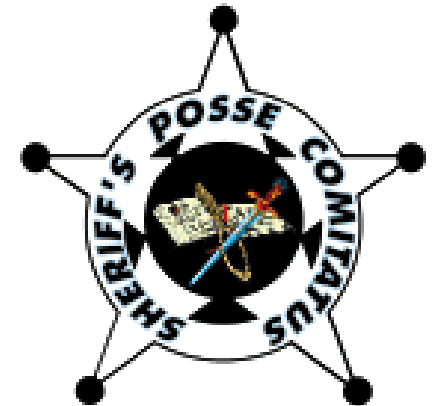
(continued)

- Some are driven by religious beliefs
- Some seek a strong Nazi/fascist government
  - Great national pride
  - Monopoly or government ownership of production
  - Full rights to select people
  - Fewer or no rights for others



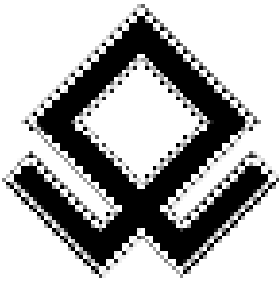
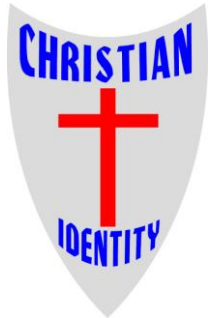
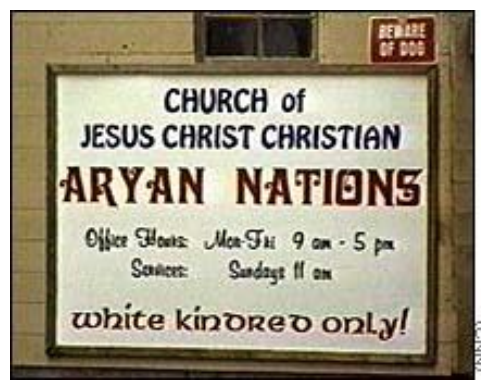
## Antigovernment

- Posse Comitatus
- Common law courts
- Sovereign citizens
- Militias



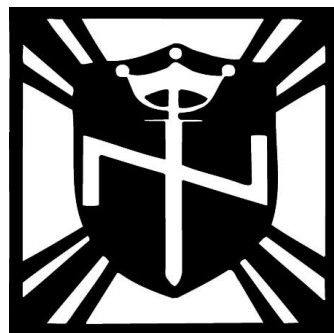
## Religious-Oriented Extremists

- Christian Identity
- Church of Jesus Christ Christian
- Phineas Priesthood
- World Church of the Creator
- Odinism



## Racist/Hate

- Ku Klux Klan (KKK)
- Neo-Nazis
- Skinheads
- National Alliance



## Special-Interest/Single-Issue Terrorism

- Extremists who seek to force the government or population to alter a specific aspect within the country
  - Usually do not seek to overthrow or greatly alter the government
  - Often represent a fairly popular point of view



## Special-Interest/Single-Issue Terrorism (continued)

- Most common areas of concern are
  - Animal rights
  - Environmental
  - Antigenetic engineering
  - Antiabortion



(Courtesy WBRC)



## Animal Rights

- Over 1,000 attacks in the U.S. in the past 20 years
  - 80 attacks caused more than \$100,000 in damages
- Groups
  - Animal Liberation Front (ALF)
  - Earth Liberation Front (ELF)
- Tactics include arson, burglary, vandalism, and liberating animals



## Environmental



- Hundreds of attacks in the U.S. in the past 20 years
  - 50 attacks caused more than \$100,000 in damages
- Groups
  - Eco-Raiders, Evan Mecham Ecoterrorist International Conspiracy (EMETIC), Earth First, Earth Liberation Front (ELF)
- Tactics include arson, bombings, vandalism, theft, tree spiking, threats



## Antigenetic Engineering

- Almost 50 attacks since January 1999
- Worst attack in the U.S.—May 21, 2001, at the University of Washington—more than \$5,000,000 in damages
- Tactics include arson, vandalism, pulling up crops and plants, cutting down trees
- ELF appears to be most active group



A Greenpeace protest demanding the separation of genetically engineered U.S. corn from European crops (Isabelle Rouvillois—AFP)

## Antiabortion

- *Roe v. Wade*, January 1973
- Continuum of protest
  - Demonstrations, petitions, other lawful tactics
  - Civil disobedience (e.g., blocking entrance)
  - Violent terrorist actions (fire bombing, murder)
- Antiabortion crime statistics
- Recent attacks



## Other Domestic Terrorism Issues

- Cyberterrorism
  - Term used to refer to almost any attack on or using a computer
- Narcoterrorism
  - A narcotics conspiracy that uses extreme force and violence against a government or population in order to enable it to function



## Domestic Terrorist/Extremist Groups Recap

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## Questions